The Dream of a French Writer

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Script inspired by my book

Adriana Coelho
The Dream of a French Writer
Beyond the Pages

Characters – The Dream of a French Writer

Marli Francesca – A French novelist living in New York. Protagonist of the story. She is talented but struggles with believing in love until her journey with Seraphine, Chloe, Robert, and her fictional characters transforms her life.

Emma – Marli's secretary and best friend. Cheerful, supportive, and loyal, she brings warmth and energy to Marli's world.

Harry – Marli's editor and confidant. Witty and practical, he helps guide Marli's career while also grounding her when life becomes overwhelming.

Brandon – Owner of a powerful New York publishing house. At first, he seems like Marli's biggest opportunity, but he is later revealed as corrupt, manipulative, and ultimately the antagonist. He is also Chloe's estranged son.

Robert – A British journalist who travels from England to New York to cover Marli's book launch. He becomes Marli's love interest and protector, representing the possibility of true love.

Seraphine – A mysterious psychic. She reveals to Marli that her characters will come to life at midnight, setting in motion the supernatural events that force Marli to face her fears.

Chloe Johnson – A legendary American writer now living in a nursing home. She becomes Marli's mentor and friend. Wise and empathetic, Chloe reveals her hidden connection to Brandon, deepening the conflict.

James – Marli's first fictional hero. When Seraphine's prophecy comes true, James and other characters step out of her books. He helps Marli confront her past and protects her in the climax.

Other Fictional Characters – Heroes, heroines, and figures from Marli's novels who briefly come alive. They

represent her inner world and ultimately defend her and her friends against Brandon.

Synopsis – The Dream of a French Writer

In the bustling heart of New York City, Marli Francesca, a celebrated French novelist, has built a career writing breathtaking tales of romance that touch readers across the world. Yet, behind her words lies a woman who has never truly believed in love. Her closest companions are her spirited secretary Emma and her loyal editor Harry, who support her every step of the way. Marli's life takes a dramatic turn when Brandon, the powerful owner of a prestigious New York publishing house, offers her a

contract that could elevate her career to international fame.

Soon, Marli's world becomes a whirlwind of book launches, interviews, and literary success. At the grand opening of her latest novel, she meets Robert, a charming British journalist who has traveled from England to cover the event. Their eyes meet, and an unspoken connection begins to form, though Marli is hesitant to believe it could mean something real.

But Marli's journey is not only about fame and romance. One night, while wandering the neon-lit streets of New York, she stumbles upon a mysterious shop and meets Seraphine, an enigmatic fortune teller. Seraphine tells her that her fictional characters will soon step out of the page and into her life at midnight. Marli laughs at the prophecy, but when her characters begin to manifest in the real world, she is forced to confront her deepest fears and long-buried traumas. These characters, once creations of her imagination, now guide her to face her painful childhood memories and her disbelief in love.

As she navigates this surreal reality, Marli is introduced by Brandon to Chloe Johnson, a legendary American novelist who now lives forgotten in a nursing home. Marli and Chloe form an unexpected friendship, bound by their passion for storytelling and their belief that characters can hold extraordinary power. But Chloe hides a painful secret: Brandon is her son, who betrayed her, stole her publishing house, and abandoned her to obscurity.

The deeper Marli becomes entangled in Brandon's world, the more she realizes his corruption. Along with Robert, Emma, Harry, and other authors, she uncovers that Brandon has been stealing rights and profits from countless writers. When the truth comes to light, Brandon is arrested, but his hunger for power does not end there. Upon his release, he swears vengeance, targeting Marli directly.

In a thrilling climax, Brandon storms into the publishing house armed, taking Marli and her friends hostage. Just when all seems lost, Marli's fictional characters once again come to life, stepping out of her books to defend her. They shield her from Brandon's violence, forcing him

to flee into the night. In a desperate attempt to escape the police, Brandon crashes his car and meets his downfall.

With Brandon gone, Marli inherits the publishing house. In honor of her late friend and mentor, she renames it "Chloe Publishing House." Empowered at last, she embraces both her career and her personal life. Robert, who has stood faithfully by her side, becomes more than just a journalist—he becomes the love she never thought possible. Their romance culminates in a beautiful wedding in Central Park, surrounded by friends, and with the quiet blessing of her characters, who fade back into the world of fiction.

The Dream of a French Writer is a sweeping three-hour cinematic journey that blends romance, suspense, fantasy, and self-discovery. It is the story of a woman who learns that love can exist both on the page and in reality, that imagination can shape destiny, and that sometimes, the characters we create are the very ones who lead us to the truth.

FADE IN:

EXT. NEW YORK CITY – DAWN
The sun rises over skyscrapers. The streets hum with the rhythm of the city.

INT. MARLI'S APARTMENT – MORNING
A cozy, book-filled apartment. MARLI FRANCESCA

(early 30s, elegant, French) sits at her desk, coffee in hand, typing passionately.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
In the heart of New York, Marli Francesca, a French novelist, has filled pages with love stories that captured the world. Yet, she herself never believed in love…

SCENE 1 – THE FRIENDS

INT. MARLI'S OFFICE – DAY

EMMA (her assistant, cheerful, American) and HARRY (her editor, witty, supportive) enter.

HARRY
Marli, you won't believe this—Brandon, the owner of the biggest publishing house in New York, wants to meet you.

MARLI
(astonished)
Brandon? The Brandon?

EMMA
(grinning)
Yes! And he wants your new book. This could change everything.

Marli exchanges looks with her friends, excitement mixing with nerves.

SCENE 2 – THE PUBLISHING HOUSE

INT. BRANDON'S OFFICE – NEXT DAY

BRANDON (late 40s, charismatic, ambitious) shakes Marli's hand.

BRANDON
Marli Francesca… I've admired your work for years. I want your next book to be published here, in New York.

Marli, overwhelmed, agrees. Emma and Harry celebrate with her afterward.

SCENE 3 – THE BIG LAUNCH

INT. BOOKSTORE – NIGHT

A crowd fills the space. Fans line up with copies of Marli's novel. Cameras flash. Brandon gives a grand introduction.

BRANDON
Ladies and gentlemen, meet the French writer who has stolen the world's heart—Marli Francesca!

Applause. Marli signs books, smiling warmly at readers.

SCENE 4 – THE JOURNALIST

From the crowd, a MAN approaches the signing table. Tall, charming, British accent. This is ROBERT (mid-30s, journalist from London).

ROBERT
(holding out his copy)
Your words travel far, Miss Francesca. They even reached me in England.

Their eyes meet—an instant spark. Marli signs his book, their hands briefly touching.

MARLI
(smiling, shy)
Thank you. I hope New York treats you as kindly as Paris.

They exchange a meaningful look, both unaware how much this meeting will change their lives.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SCENE 5 – THE PSYCHIC

EXT. NEW YORK STREET – NIGHT

Marli walks home after dinner with Emma and Harry. Neon lights glow in the distance. She stops in front of a mysterious shop: Seraphine – Psychic & Fortune Teller.

INT. PSYCHIC SHOP – NIGHT

Inside, crystals and candles shimmer. SERAPHINE (enigmatic, mid-50s) greets her with piercing eyes.

SERAPHINE

You write love stories… yet you do not believe in love.

MARLI

(skeptical)

They are just stories. Nothing more.

SERAPHINE

At midnight, your characters will step out of the pages… and confront you with your past and fears.

Marli, shaken, rushes out into the night.

SCENE 6 – THE CHARACTERS COME TO LIFE

INT. MARLI'S APARTMENT – MIDNIGHT

The clock strikes twelve. A sudden knock.

Marli opens the door—JAMES, her first fictional hero, stands before her. Behind him, other CHARACTERS appear.

JAMES

You gave us life, Marli. Now we will help you face your truth.

Marli is terrified but captivated. The characters move inside, blending into reality.

SCENE 7 – MARLI CONFIDES IN FRIENDS

INT. OFFICE – DAY

Marli tells EMMA and HARRY about Seraphine and the characters. They laugh, thinking she's exhausted.

HARRY

You need a break, Marli. Too many late-night writing sessions.

EMMA

(smiling kindly)

Or maybe your stories are just more alive than you think.

Marli smiles faintly but remains unsettled.

SCENE 8 – THE NURSING HOME

INT. NURSING HOME GARDEN – AFTERNOON

BRANDON introduces Marli to CHLOE JOHNSON (elderly, elegant, a once-famous writer).

CHLOE

(looking at Marli with warmth)

Stories are not just words. They are pieces of our soul.

Marli is deeply moved. Chloe and Marli begin a bond that feels like mentorship and friendship.

SCENE 9 – SHARED STORIES

INT. GARDEN LIBRARY – EVENING

Chloe and Marli sit together with tea, exchanging memories of their lives.

CHLOE

Do you believe characters can create life?

MARLI

(after a pause)

I didn’t. But now… I’m not so sure.

They smile. A deep friendship begins.

SCENE 10 – THE REVELATION

Later, Chloe confides quietly to Marli.

CHLOE

I must tell you… Brandon is my son. The publishing house was mine. He placed me here… because he wanted it all.

Marli is stunned.

MARLI

(softly)

And he has stolen more than just your company. He is stealing from writers too.

A storm brews in Marli’s heart.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SCENE 11 – THE TRUTH ABOUT BRANDON

INT. PUBLISHING OFFICE – NIGHT

Marli, Harry, and Emma overhear a tense meeting. Brandon manipulates contracts, keeping authors' royalties.

HARRY

(whispers)

He's stealing from everyone.

Marli's eyes widen with fury.

SCENE 12 – ROBERT PROTECTS MARLI

EXT. NEW YORK STREET – NIGHT

Brandon, now out of control, follows Marli. Robert appears, stepping in front of her.

ROBERT

(to Brandon)

If you touch her, you'll answer to me.

They lock eyes. Brandon retreats for now, his gaze full of hatred.

SCENE 13 – CHLOE'S FINAL LETTER

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM – DAY

Chloe, frail in bed, takes Marli’s hand.

CHLOE

I believe in Seraphine. She was more than fiction for me too.

Later, Marli receives a call: Chloe has passed away. At the cemetery, a nurse hands Marli a sealed letter.

LETTER (V.O., CHLOE’S VOICE)

Seraphine was the first character I ever created. She helped many readers in ways we cannot explain. I’m glad she has helped you too.

Tears stream down Marli’s face, but she smiles with hope.

SCENE 14 – BRANDON’S REVENGE

INT. PUBLISHING OFFICE – NIGHT

Marli, Robert, Emma, and Harry enter. Suddenly, Brandon storms in, armed.

BRANDON

No one will take my empire from me!

He holds them hostage. Fear fills the room.

SCENE 15 – CHARACTERS PROTECT MARLI

The lights flicker. One by one, Marli's fictional CHARACTERS step out of her books. They surround Marli and her friends, shielding them.

JAMES

(standing tall)

You cannot harm her. She gave us life.

The characters overpower Brandon, forcing him to flee.

SCENE 16 – THE END OF BRANDON

EXT. NEW YORK STREET – NIGHT

Police chase Brandon’s car through the city. He loses control, crashes violently. Sirens wail.

Brandon is gone.

SCENE 17 – A NEW BEGINNING

INT. PUBLISHING HOUSE – DAY

Marli signs the final papers. She now owns the company. The sign outside changes to:

“Chloe Publishing House”

Emma and Harry embrace her. Robert stands proudly by her side.

SCENE 18 – THE WEDDING

EXT. CENTRAL PARK – DAY

Spring blossoms. Marli, radiant in white, walks down the aisle. Robert waits, smiling.

Emma and Harry cheer. The CHARACTERS watch from a distance, fading back into the pages of her novels as the vows are spoken.

ROBERT

(to Marli)

Beyond the pages… I found you.

They kiss. Applause.

FADE OUT.

THE END